

I am disgusted with the U.N.'s arrogance in believing it can increase its budget by taxing our citizens. This proposal should not be permitted to go any further.

S. 1519 concludes that the United Nations has no legal authority to tax American citizens. It prohibits U.S. payments to the United Nations if it attempts to impose any of the taxation schemes. And finally, the bill cuts off funds for any U.N. organization which develop or advocate taxation schemes.

Once again, I support this bill to bar U.S. contributions to the United Nations if that organization continues to consider its scheme for taxation without representation.

The article follows:

[From the Washington Times, Feb. 1, 1996]

U.N. 'INTRUSION' STIRS ANGER AT YELLOWSTONE—ENVIRONMENTAL ALARM SEEN AS MEDDLING

(By Valerie Richardson)

DENVER.—A United Nations delegation to Yellowstone National Park has spurred outrage among Westerners who accuse the international body of meddling in domestic policy.

After a three-day evaluation by international experts, the World Heritage Committee, a bureau of the United Nations Environmental, scientific and Cultural Organization, declared Yellowstone a World Heritage site "in danger."

Chief among the delegation's concerns was the proposed reopening of the New World Mine, a gold mine located near Yellowstone in Montana. But debate about the mine has been all but overshadowed by the uproar over the delegation itself.

In areas of the West where the states'-rights movement is flourishing and distrust of centralized government is at an all-time high, the arrival of a U.N. committee has been viewed as nothing less than an attempt to subvert U.S. sovereignty.

"Will the New World Order sabotage the New World Mine?" the Montana Standard newspaper in Butte asked in an Aug. 27 editorial. "Clinton administration officials appear to be scheming to bring that about."

Sen. Alan K. Simpson, Wyoming Republican, called the international delegation's role "a terrible intrusion." He and other Western lawmakers have blasted Interior Assistant Secretary George Frampton for inviting the committee to Yellowstone and urging the panel to lend its voice to those fighting the New World Mine.

Mr. Frampton issued the invitation at the request of "concerned citizens," said park spokeswoman Cheryl Matthews. Those citizens include a coalition of 14 environmental groups working to halt the mine, including the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Sierra Club and the World Wildlife Fund.

"When we made the request a year ago, we didn't anticipate the black-helicopter arguments," said Bob Ekey, spokesman for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition in Bozeman, Mont. "Frankly, some of our critics have been putting out misinformation—that the U.N. is going to come out, claim the area and run the park."

Other Western leaders have accused Mr. Frampton of badly overstepping his authority by trying to kill the proposed mine before the review process is complete. The U.S. Forest Service and Montana Department of Environmental Quality are now preparing an environmental-impact statement on the project.

"It is astonishing that a group of extreme environmentalists can invite a few folks

from the United Nations to circumvent laws that Americans and Montanans have worked hard for and lent their voices to," said Sen. Conrad Burns, Montana Republican.

"We have an exhaustive procedure in the books in Montana to decide where mines can and cannot be cited. Why should we allow the U.N. to pick and choose when these laws and rules will be allowed to work?"

Rep. Barbara Cubin, Wyoming Republican, noted that Mr. Frampton is ultimately responsible for a "fair" review of the project, "yet he is the very person who requested the United Nations interference within the borders of the United States."

"Does he want foreigners to determine our environmental requirements?" she asked. "Doesn't he know that the United States has the strictest environmental regulations on the planet?"

Marvin Jensen, Yellowstone National Park assistant superintendent, stressed that the international delegation has "no legal authority" to set domestic policy. "The only thing the World Heritage Committee can do is list and de-list," he said.

"To be listed as 'in danger' raises questions about the site's continued listing," he explained. "To be de-listed would be embarrassing to any country."

But some critics worry that the committee may have more power than forest officials acknowledge. By signing the World Heritage Treaty in 1972 and requesting Yellowstone's designation as a World Heritage site in 1978, the United States pledged to manage the park according to treaty requirements, says the committee.

The most controversial of those requirements is the establishment of a buffer zone around each World Heritage site. When Yellowstone was listed, officials agreed that the seven national forests surrounding the park would serve as an adequate protection. None of the other 17 listed U.S. sites has a formal buffer zone.

Past proposals for a buffer zone called for establishing an 18.2-million-acre perimeter around the park in which many economic and recreational activities would be restricted, including ranching, logging, snowmobiling, even auto traffic. Most locals staunchly oppose such a zone.

During the delegation's three-day tour in September, however, committee President Adul Wichiencharoen of Thailand fed local fears when he suggested expanding the buffer zone around the 2.3-million-acre park. That recommendation was ultimately dropped from the final report.

Those remarks notwithstanding, park officials still insist the committee's role is strictly advisory, and, barring another invitation from the Interior Department, over and done with.

Mr. Jensen admitted it's been difficult to convince some local residents of that. "One local fellow—a gardener—asked me, 'So when's the U.N. coming to take over Yellowstone?'" said Mr. Jensen. "I talked to him and talked to him and I could not convince him that that wasn't going to happen." •

CHECHNYA

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the bloody events that took place in the regions of Chechnya and Dagestan in recent months have alarmed us all. Terrorist acts by Chechen separatist rebels were answered with brutal shelling of rebel, hostage, and civilian positions by Russian troops. Although it is unclear how many people were killed during the fighting, Russian President Boris Yeltsin estimates that 153

Chechen separatists, 42 hostages, and 26 Russian soldiers died during the 10-day crisis.

In October 1991, Dzhokhar Dudayev, a Moslem Chechen leader, was elected president of Chechnya and soon declared independence from Russia. This decision was met with immediate resistance from Moscow and President Yeltsin declared a state of emergency in the region. Over the past several years, Russian military forces clashed repeatedly with Chechen nationalist forces loyal to Dudayev. After considerable bloodshed on both sides, a unilateral cease-fire was declared in April 1995. Unfortunately, it did not last and fighting soon resumed.

On January 6, 1996, the fighting in Chechnya again reached the world stage. Chechen separatists attacked a Russian airfield in Chechnya and destroyed two helicopter gunships. The rebels, under the command of Salam Raduyev, the son-in-law of Dudayev, withdrew from the airfield and proceeded to take more than 2,000 innocent men, women, and children hostage in a hospital in the town of Kizlyar in the neighboring region of Dagestan.

After negotiating with the Russians, Raduyev released the majority of the hostages in return for safe passage to Chechnya. The rebels and 120 hostages boarded buses bound for Chechnya, but the convoy was stopped a short distance from Chechnya by Russian forces near the town of Pervomayskoye. Negotiations to end the stalemate failed, and the rebels dug in for a siege. Rather than continue to work toward a peaceful solution to the crisis, the Russian military opened fire on the rebel positions in the town with tanks, howitzers, rockets, and small arms fire. Pervomayskoye is now totally destroyed.

I do not condone the terrorist acts employed by the Chechen rebels and abhor their use of civilians as shields. Terrorism is never a legitimate negotiating ploy, and I hope that those who are responsible for these acts are brought to justice.

I am, however, outraged about the use of excessive force by the Russian military against the rebels and the remaining hostages as well as the restrictions imposed on humanitarian groups who attempted to assist the wounded in Pervomayskoye. Humanitarian groups such as Doctors Without Borders and the International Red Cross were not allowed to enter the town to aid injured civilians. At the same time, Russian soldiers were helicoptered out of the area to the nearest field hospitals.

The exact number of casualties remains in doubt because members of the Western press were not allowed near Pervomayskoye and the casualty reports from both sides are not reliable. The New York Times reported as late as January 21 that Russian soldiers confiscated film from Western photographers that were attempting to photograph the smoldering ruins of the town.

In response to the Russian shelling of Pervomayskoye, Turkish nationalists sympathetic to the Chechen cause highjacked a Russia-bound ferry in the Black Sea. The highjackers threatened to kill the more than 200 passengers and blow up the ferry in the Straits of Bosphorus if the Chechens were not allowed to go free. After 3 days at sea, Turkish negotiators convinced the highjackers that they had gained the world's attention and nothing would be achieved by carrying out their threats. The highjackers then released their hostages and surrendered to Turkish authorities.

I applaud the Turkish Government for patiently working to find a peaceful solution to this crisis.

The United States Government is committed to promoting democracy in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union and is investing millions of taxpayer dollars to help the NIS on the path toward democracy. I strongly support this goal. But, the Russian military campaign against the Chechens, especially during the past month, demonstrates to the world that Russia's transition to democracy and human rights remains fragile and unpredictable, and that Russian nationalism is on the rise.

The war in Chechnya is far from over and a solution is not likely to be found in the near future unless both sides are willing to abide by a cease-fire and negotiate in good faith. President Yeltsin should not view the defeat of Raduyev's small force as a victory. All sides lost.●

TRIBUTE TO JERI MELLON

● Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Geraldine M. "Jeri" Mellon, who passed away on January 7, 1996 in Henderson, NV.

Jeri's courage and determination helped to convict Charles Keating, the former owner of Lincoln Savings and Loan, who was responsible for the Nation's worst savings and loan swindle in history. The innocent victims of the savings and loan collapse were mostly elderly bondholders who lost their life savings.

Jeri testified about the fraud before Los Angeles County Court in 1991, where she represented 23,000 bondholders. She moved the courtroom to applause with her emotional speech about the swindle. In 1993, Jeri also testified against Keating in Federal court, helping to secure his conviction.

Jeri's efforts to assist the victims of the S&L scandal went far beyond testifying in court. She helped organize and lead Lincoln-American Continental Corp. Bondholders Action Committee, a support group for the victims. Through the group, a lawsuit was filed against Keating and others that resulted in the bondholders' recovery of approximately 60 percent of the money they had lost.

I had the opportunity to meet this dedicated woman when she came to

Washington, DC to testify before Congress. Jeri recently helped me lead the fight against a bill in the Senate that would undermine investors' rights in cases of fraudulent investment schemes. Unfortunately, the legislation passed.

Before her retirement, Jeri was a registered nurse and also served in hospital administration. She was extremely active in her field and was a member of many health organizations. I am certain she was as successful and dedicated to her career as she was to her later endeavors.

Jeri will be remembered and missed by her many family and friends who loved her. She will also never be forgotten by the thousands of individuals she stood up for in a most difficult time. I am pleased to recognize Jeri Mellon for her life of service.●

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE A. SIMMONS

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a tribute to a real American hero and a dedicated public servant who recently passed away.

Gunner's mate first class Wayne A. Simmons, U.S. Navy retired, died on December 14 at the age of 72 at a hospital in Birmingham, AL, where he was undergoing treatment for a vascular ailment.

Mr. Simmons, who lived in College Park, MD, was born in Minnesota and moved to the Washington, DC area as a child. In 1940, he dropped out of McKinley High School in DC to enlist in the Canadian Army to serve in World War II. When it was discovered that he was underage, he was sent home. On his 17th birthday, with the permission of his parents, Wayne Simmons enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Simmons was stationed at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese force attacked the base and ushered the United States into World War II. He served in the Pacific during the war, including service aboard the light cruiser, *Reno*, and was recognized for his efforts in saving the ship from sinking after an enemy torpedo attack. Following the war, Mr. Simmons served on several more ships and stations until he was medically retired from active duty as a gunner's mate first class in 1953.

Following his Naval career, Mr. Simmons settled back in the Washington, DC area, and earned both a bachelor of science and master's degree in accounting from Benjamin Franklin University while working for Gateway Finance in Mount Rainier. He joined the Department of Agriculture in 1968, where he was a food program specialist until his retirement in 1982.

Mr. Simmons attended Berwyn Baptist Church in College Park, MD, for 40 years and served as a deacon in his church. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 33 in Washington, DC and the Birmingham Masonic Lodge in Beltsville, MD.

Mr. Simmons's family includes his lovely wife of 46 years, Patricia W.

Simmons of College Park, MD; two daughters, Patricia S. Bradshaw of Silver Spring, MD, and Peggy E. Wagner of Crownsville, MD; two sons, Wayne S. and Michael L. Simmons, both of Bowie, MD; and eight grandchildren.

Mr. President, Wayne Simmons's life was one of service and devotion—exemplary service to the U.S. Navy and this great Nation of ours and unwavering devotion and love for his wife, his family, and his church. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.●

SMILE WHEN YOU COMPARE US

● Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I suggest all Senators will be greatly interested in an article by Robert H. Pines, "Smile when you compare our countries," which appeared in the Toronto Globe and Mail several weeks ago.

While the United States and Canada share many common interests, including the longest undefended border in the world, they also differ in many ways. Bob Pines, who served with distinction as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Canadian Affairs in the Bush administration, eloquently identifies some of the differences between the United States and our neighbor to the North.

Mr. President, I ask that the text of this article be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Toronto Globe and Mail, Nov. 30, 1995]

SMILE WHEN YOU COMPARE OUR COUNTRIES (By Robert H. Pines)

Perhaps the holiday season is a good time to dissect a cliché.

Earlier this month I attended my fourth biennial conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS). About 40 percent of those in attendance were Canadians. Almost all the rest were Americans who make their living teaching about Canada. There were a few others like myself who have had a long love affair with your country in non-academic pursuits.

The Canadian contingent frequently launched into the familiar self-congratulatory litany of differences between the two countries. Heads wagged in reflexive agreement at mention of superior Canadian civility (undoubtedly true), the famed United Nations report about Canada being the world's best place to live (conceivably true if real meaning can be assigned to sociological statistics), and on and on through invidious comparisons of descending degrees of validity. Raymond Chrétien, Canada's ambassador to the U.S., orated that "we have a low crime rate and you have a high crime rate."

As noted, the American contingent numbered few of the Pat Buchanan stripe. One intrepid soul at a symposium was rewarded with icy stares when he diffidently mumbled something about southward emigration dwarfing that from the U.S. to Canada.

Another politically incorrect type daringly asked a question approximately along these lines: If your country is so great and ours so awful, how come you are on the verge of breaking up and we are not? (Actually, being an academic, he put it more politely.)

Therein lies the point of this essay. I submit to Canadian readers that the American political system (not necessarily American people or American society) holds one enormous advantage over that of Canada; that of decisiveness.